

REMARKS

This Amendment B is being filed within two months after the shortened statutory period for response that ended on March 30, 2003. Accordingly, a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time is attached hereto.

Claims 21-34 are pending in the application.

Double Patenting

Claims 23-29 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting. Applicants will submit a terminal disclaimer upon receipt from the Examiner of an indication of allowance but subject to a properly filed terminal disclaimer for the claims at issue.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected as noted in the Office Action. Claim 28 has been amended to overcome the rejection. Reconsideration is requested.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

Claims 21, 22, 30 and 31 stand rejected as being anticipated by Balamuth et al. as noted in the Office Action. Claims 21 and 30 have been amended to recite treatment segment defining a first length [in combination with] a central ridge contiguous with the first length. Balamuth et al. neither discloses nor suggests a central region continuous with the length of the treatment section and as such amended claims 21 and 30 overcome the rejection. Based on dependency, claims 22 and 31 are also deemed patentable over Balamuth et al. Reconsideration is requested.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 21-24, 28-30, 32 and 34 stand rejected as being anticipated by Hood as noted in the Office Action. In the diagram accompanying the rejection, the Examiner notes a "central ridge (entire surface)" and a "concave treatment segment". It is unclear to Applicant what is meant by the Examiner's statement "(entire surface)", associated with the central ridge identified by the Examiner. Without agreeing with the Examiner that a central ridge does in fact exist in the Hood disclosure, it is Applicant's view that a central ridge is neither disclosed nor suggested within a treatment region (as identified by the Examiner) of the Hood disclosure. Claims 21, 23, 28 and 30 have been amended to recite treatment segment defining a first length [in combination with] a central ridge contiguous with the first length. Hood neither discloses nor suggests a central region continuous with the length of the treatment section and as such amended claims 21, 23, 28 and 30 overcome the rejection. Based on dependency, claims 22, 24, 29, 32 and 34 are also deemed patentable over Hood. Reconsideration is requested.

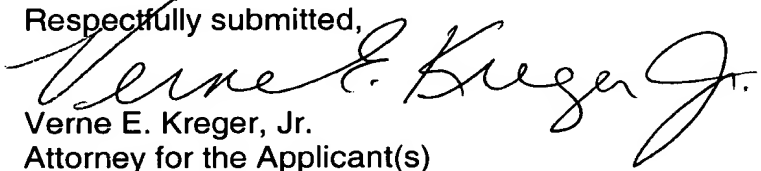
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that in view of the amendments and discussion, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and 102 have been overcome and that the invention is now patentable over the cited prior art. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider all rejections and pass this case to issue.

Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required to Account No. 10-0750/END-788/VEK. This Authorization is being submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,



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DATED: May 30, 2003